

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8140

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, UK

SUBJ: THE FALSE IDENTIFICATION PROBLEM IN VISA
APPLICATIONS

REF: STATE 16879

1. A. SCOPE OF PROBLEM: THE PRESENTATION OF FALSE DOCUMENTS FOR VISA PURPOSES DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE A PROBLEM AT THIS POST. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH FALSE DOCUMENTS HAS BEEN PRINCIPALLY RELATED TO INDIVIDUALS PRESENTING FALSE EMPLOYMENT LETTERS FOR NONIMMIGRANT VISAS; FALSE LETTERS OF REFERENCE TO QUALIFY FOR LABOR CERTIFICATION OR "INVESTOR" STATUS.

B. A RECENT ARTICLE IN THE LONDON TIMES REPORTED THE PRESENCE OF AT LEAST FIFTY BOGUS EDUCATION DEGREE MANUFACTURERS IN THE U.K. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THESE BOGUS "DEGREES" HAVE BEEN USED TO OBTAIN I-20 FORMS FROM SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND SUBSEQUENTLY STUDENT VISAS. THE EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO INVESTIGATE EVERY STUDENT CASE.

C. THE LONDON DAILY TELEGRAPH RECENTLY REPORTED THE CASE OF A PAKISTANI EMPLOYED AT THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH WHO PROVIDED SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS TO AT LEAST 100 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. IT IS BELIEVED SUCH ILLEGAL DOCUMENTS MAY BE USED AS EVIDENCE OF "PERMANENT RESIDENCE" IN THE U.K. AND PRESENTED IN SUPPORT OF VISA APPLICATIONS. AGAIN, THE EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO VERIFY
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THIS TYPE OF DOCUMENTATION.

2. FRAUDULENT IDENTIFICATION: WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE THAT THIS IS A PROBLEM AT THIS POST. HOWEVER, THE RECENT INCIDENT INVOLVING A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT WHO HAD OBTAINED THREE PASSPORTS, TWO IN ASSUMED IDENTITIES, RESULTED IN CONSIDERABLE PRESS COVERAGE REGARDING THE RELATIVE EASE WITH WHICH A PERSON MAY APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE A PASSPORT IN ANOTHER'S IDENTITY. AN OFFICIAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF IMMIGRATION IN THE HOME OFFICE RECENTLY INFORMED AN EMBASSY OFFICER THAT THIS PROBLEM IS UNDER STUDY AND THAT HE WOULD INFORM THE EMBASSY WHEN THE STUDY HAS BEEN COMPLETED.

3. PROFILE OF PERSONS USING FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS: AS THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT CASE INDICATES, THE USE OF FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS IS NOT NECESSARILY RESTRICTED TO NON BONAFIDE VISA APPLICANTS. THE VAST MAJORITY OF NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICANTS THAT HAVE COME TO OUR ATTENTION WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO USE FRAUDULENT DOCUMENTS TO OBTAIN VISAS ARE GENERALLY FROM THE CARRIBEAN, INDIA AND PAKISTAN, THEY ARE FREQUENTLY UNEMPLOYED OR HOLD LOW PAYING JOBS, THEY HAVE FAMILY OR FRIENDS IN THE UNITED STATES TO WHOM THEY ARE DESTINED AND WHO MORE OFTEN THAN NOT HAVE THEMSELVES SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING A VISA BY FRAUD OR MISREPRESENTATION. FRAUDULENT CASES, PARTICULARLY NIV, OCCUR MOST FREQUENTLY WHEN VISA VOLUME IS AT ITS PEAK.

4. SUGGESTED SOLUTIONS: VISA OFFICERS SHOULD BE ALLOWED SUFFICIENT TIME TO PROPERLY ADJUDICATE CASES. ALSO, IT WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE IF POSTS COULD HAVE VISA INVESTIGATIVE STAFF. IN SHORT, TO GIVE VISA APPLICATIONS CAREFUL SCRUTINY AND INVESTIGATION, ADEQUATE STAFFING IS NECESSARY. AS IT IS, RELATIVELY "SAFE" POSTS LIKE LONDON ARE UNLIKELY TO EVER UNCOVER DOCUMENTS FRAUD BECAUSE OF THE SHEER VOLUME OF APPLICATIONS AND LOW STAFFING LEVELS THAT ONLY PROVIDE FOR CURSORY EXAMINATION OF INDIVIDUAL CASES AT BEST.

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